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**CLITHEROE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
FOR 1939**

**J. M. POSTLETHWAITE**

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (CANTAB)

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report  
for the year ended December 31st, 1939.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**J. M. POSTLETHWAITE.**



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CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1939, on the Sanitary conditions and Administration of the Rural District.

The Ministry of Health in their Circular states that “ the Minister has considered the desirability of the Reports being curtailed during the War and he is satisfied that, while an entire discontinuance of annual reports during this period would not be in the interests of local government, the report might be without disadvantage be materially shortened. Many items which usually appear may be omitted entirely and those which are retained may be dealt with as briefly as possible.”

I have therefore based this report on the headings and instructions contained in the Ministers Circular.

The area in acres is 32,170.

Population 1931 Census : 8,644.

Population mid-1939 : 8,971.

Number of inhabited houses, 1931 : 1,569.

Number of inhabited houses mid-1939 : 1,767, plus 32 unoccupied, 1,799.

Rateable Value £51,335.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £200.

There has not been any special causes of sickness or invalidity specially noteworthy in the area during the year or any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health or any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

The fact that there were only 34 cases of Infectious Disease apart from Institutional Notifications bears that out.

The Medical Officer is J. M. Postlethwaite, M.A., M.B., B.C. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health. Part-time and not in general practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is W. H. Jackson, who is a whole-time officer.

There are no other Public Health Officers of the Rural District.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Pathological specimens are sent to the Royal Infirmary, Wigan. There also exists an efficient laboratory at Calderstones, Whalley, which is now receiving casualties.

The ambulance facilities are sufficient, the ambulance is on contract and is available for all ordinary cases. Infectious cases are conveyed by the ambulance of the Blackburn Fever Hospital to which most of our severe infectious cases are sent.

## **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

There are two district nurses who do good and efficient work.

There are no special Clinics apart from those run by the County and no Public or Voluntary Hospitals belonging to the District.

The main occupations are cotton weaving, agriculture and stone quarrying.

## **HOUSING.**

The housing conditions in the district are very good, there is no real shortage of houses.

During the past year 2,257 houses have been inspected and the usual defects found, viz., dampness, blocked drains, etc. These have been remedied by the owners when their attention has been called to them.

Sundry repairs have been done, such as new roofs, chimneys, new bedroom floors, skirting boards, ceilings, and fire grates, new slop-stones and drain inlets fixed.

Septic tanks and filters repaired, new drains laid from property to the tanks, yard areas repaired, external walls cemented and walls pebbledashed.

The number of new houses build during the year is five.

At Whalley 2, Pendleton 2, Hurst Green 1.

## **DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**

The Dairies and cowsheds are inspected quarterly and the general condition is good.

The cowsheds are kept very clean, the walls and ceilings are kept limewashed, most of them are well-lighted and ventilated, have concrete floors and are externally drained.



At one farm a new milk cooling room has been built.

At another farm a new cowshed has been built to tie up 18 head of cattle, also a new dairy has been built, consisting of reception room, dairy, sterilising room and boiler house.

At another farm a new cowshed has been built to tie up 15 head of cattle, this shed has a concrete floor and boskins, and is externally drained to a liquid manure tank.

At another farm one building has been converted into a dairy. This building has a concrete floor and is externally drained.

All these buildings are well-lighted and ventilated.

## **DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.**

At a number of other farms the floors of cowsheds have been concreted, new windows and doors fixed, scaffolds raised and drain inlets removed from inside to the outside of the cowsheds to bring them up to the standard required by the Milk and Dairies Orders.

## **MILK.**

During the year 35 samples of milk were collected and sent away for examination.

The result of the examination is that all the samples were satisfactory.

The number of cowkeepers is 309.

The number of dairy farms is 218.

The number of persons licensed to produce milk under the Special Designations Order of 1936 are—



Tuberculin Tested .....	1
Accredited .....	18

There is one Pastuerising plant, and one licence issued for Pastuerised milk.

## **SCHOOLS.**

All the schools are visited quarterly and all of them found to be in a satisfactory condition.

With the exception of Thornley, all the schools have a water supply laid on from the public supply. Thornley has a supply piped from a spring to the school.

## **SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY.**

Chatburn, Downham, and Worston are supplied from a covered reservoir which is fed by springs on Pendle Hill.

Chipping and Thornley from an open reservoir fed from springs of Wolfenden Fell.

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Hurst Green, Stonyhurst from the Blackburn Corporation Waterworks.

Pendleton from Pendle Hill.

Wiswell from an open reservoir fed from Whalley Moor.

Whalley from an open reservoir fed from Whalley Moor and a supplementary supply from the Clitheroe Corporation.

## **EXTENSIONS DURING THE YEAR.**

Extension of the water main has been made to The National Camps Corporation, Ltd., camps at Wiswell.

Extensions to the new property.

A supply to two farms.

Well sunk at Chipping, and a supply piped to the farm house.

## SEWERAGE.

There are sewage disposal works at Chatburn, Barrow, Whalley and Stonyhurst. The method of disposal is by sprinklers and land irrigation. So far as I know all the works are in good working order and the effluent at the outfall works is satisfactory.

The townships of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Bowland with Leagram, Downham, Twiston, Little Mitton, Thornley-with-Wheatley and Worston are without a proper drainage system.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation at the end of 1939 was—

Privies .....	563
Pail closets .....	237
Fresh Water closets .....	831
Waste Water closets .....	304

Number of conversions during the year is three waste closets to fresh water closets.

All new property are on the water carriage system where main sewers are available.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversions.

## SCAVENCING.

In some parts of the district this work has not been very satisfactory.

The attention of certain contractors has often been called to the unsatisfactory way the work was being done, and promises were given for better service.

At nine villages the scavenging is by contract, and the contractors remove the refuse in open carts during the day, to tips provided by the Council.

There is no destructor in the district.

### **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

There are no offensive trades in the district.

### **FACTORIES.**

These are in very good condition, quite a lot of alterations and improvements have been carried out to bring them up to the standard required by the new Factories Act, 1937.

### **CHEESE DAIRIES.**

There are three dairies in the district, these have been visited regularly, and all of them were found satisfactory.

### **BAKEHOUSES.**

The Bakehouses have been visited and all of them were found very clean.

### **SLAUGHTERHOUSES.**

There is no public slaughterhouse in the district, but there are eight registered ones. 346 inspections of these were made during the year and all of them were found satisfactory.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year is—

Cattle .....	4,958
Sheep .....	27,825
Pigs .....	253
Calves .....	161
Total .....	<hr/> 33,197 <hr/>

## SLAUGHTERED AT FARMS.

Seven notices were received re slaughtering at farms, 16 farms were visited and 43 carcasses inspected, all of which were found sound.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Three hundred and eighty inspections of meat were made of meat at shops and slaughterhouses. Forty-nine whole carcasses and 326 parts were found to be unfit for consumption and was destroyed.

The amount of meat condemned and destroyed is—

Tuberculous carcasses .....	24,000 lbs.
Diseased carcasses .....	5,400 ,,
Diseased parts .....	4,564 ,,
Total .....	<u>33,964 lbs.</u>

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.
Live Births—Total .....	50	47
Legitimate .....	49	45
Illegitimate .....	1	2
Still Births .....	2	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year .....	0	2

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis : Nil.

Birth Rate per 1,000 per annum : 10.8.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES .....	36	45
Total .....	81	
Phthisis .....	2	0
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....	0	0
Cancer .....	5	5
Diabetes .....	1	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage .....	2	2
Heart Disease .....	15	18
Other circulatory diseases .....	1	4
Bronchitis .....	0	1
Pneumonia .....	1	0
Diphtheria .....	0	0
Other respiratory diseases .....	0	0
Diarrhœa .....	0	0
Digestive diseases .....	1	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	1	1
Congenital causes .....	0	0
Suicide .....	1	0
Senility .....	0	0
Violence, not suicide .....	0	1
Other defined diseases .....	3	2
Influenza .....	0	0
Appendicitis .....	1	1
Premature Birth .....	0	1

Making a Death rate of 8.9 per 1,000 per annum.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Seventeen cases of Scarlet Fever, seven cases of Diphtheria, and two cases of Measles have been visited, disinfectants supplied, and 31 rooms were fumigated.

## **ANTHRAX.**

A number of suspected cases of Anthrax were reported during the year but only two cases proved to be correct. The cowsheds were disinfected and the carcasses were burned according to the requirements of the Anthrax Orders.

Population : 9,081.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths is nil.

The notification of Tuberculosis is efficient and there has been no action taken in respect of wilful neglect to notify nor is there any excessive incidence of mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

There has been no action taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**J. M. POSTLETHWAITE,**

M.A., M.B., B.Ch.(Camb.),  
M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.),  
F.R.I.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*





